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July 7, 1983

The Honorable George P. Shultz
Department of State
2201 "C" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Few reported events have been as moving to me as the press and television coverage of your visit to the border of Afghanistan. It was clear from all the reports that you were deeply moved by what you saw and heard among those who were in the Afghan refugee camps.

The opportunity to be associated with you during recent years has been a source of great pride and pleasure to me. Never more than in this particular tragic circumstance.

The International Rescue Committee, with whom I am associated, has now for several years carried forward the largest program on behalf of Afghan refugees of any American agency. John Whitehead, the IRC's President, visited that area not long after the first large numbers of Afghans crossed the border. Before he left, after detailed conversations with the government of Pakistan, the IRC was given permission to establish mobile medical teams which move from encampment to encampment to provide an urgent function. As the numbers of refugees have increased, we have increased our ability to reach them with medical aid, though I must admit it is still not quite equal to the need which stretches along the length of that entire frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Just as you said to the refugees who cheered you, we similarly say, "We are with you".

I am enclosing a copy of our just published report of our functioning on four continents, and in doing so eagerly acknowledge that it is extremely rare for us not to receive maximum support from your missions overseas wherever we function.

With warm regards and admiration.

Sincerely,



Leo Cherne

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